

BATTLE TIDE IN EAST AGAIN FLOWS FOR RUSSIANS AS GERMAN FORCES ARE ROUTED

CZAR POUNDS FOE ON POLAND FRONT IN FIVE BIG FIGHTS

Von Hindenburg's Campaign Frustrated by Fierce Russian Counter Offensive All Along Line.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 12.—Five separate battles are raging in Poland and Galicia, where Field Marshal von Hindenburg, who is now in supreme command of all the German and Austrian armies, is struggling desperately to maintain the offensive against the Russian counter assault. Enormous losses are marking the German drive toward Warsaw, but the German field marshal holds his present plan of campaign to be of such vital importance that all regard for the cost in human life has been lost in the gigantic struggle which is now under way.

For the time being flanking operations have ceased and over the greater part of the long battle front it is now a fight for strategic railways over which troops and supplies can be moved. The five zones of action are located on the line which now extends in the form of a vast semicircle. They lie, roughly speaking, as follows:

TWOFOLD WARSAW DRIVE REPULSED BY DEFENDERS

GERMANS BENTON BACK IN LODZ ADVANCE AND STROKE FROM NORTH.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Of the five Austro-German columns which for some days appeared to be making steady progress in their invasion of Poland three have suffered checks, according to last night's official report from Russian headquarters. The column which was making a downward stroke from Mlawa, on the East Prussian frontier, and which was reported in one dispatch from Petrograd to be within 25 miles of Warsaw, latterly an energetic offensive was repulsed, and under counter attacks from the Russians was compelled to retire at some points. The attacks on the main German column, which had its front on the line between Lodz and Lwow and which all came down diagonally from Thorn, were delivered with great force, but, according to the Russian account, Douglouff with heavy losses to the invaders.

The other column which has suffered is that composed of German and Austrian troops, which has been trying to outflank the Russian left south of Cracow. In this case it was the Russians who assumed the offensive, and they claim that after a tenacious resistance they defeated the Germans, taking several guns and 2000 prisoners. Of the German column operating in the region of Piotrkow and Lodz, according to the Russian statement that "on the other parts of the front there have been no substantial changes."

ALLIES HURL FOE FROM YSER CANAL

Continued from Page One. Russian report of Batum on the Black Sea. It is reported 100 Russians of the garrisons were killed. Reports say that Moslem forces have reached the Suez Canal and that Senussi forces have crossed the Egyptian border.

GERMANS EVACUATE WEST BANK OF YSER CANAL

Paris, Dec. 12.—The German troops in Flanders have been compelled to evacuate the west bank of the Yser Canal, and the Allies have occupied the positions abandoned by the foe. This was officially announced here this afternoon. An official statement issued by the War Office shows that the French artillery continues to demonstrate its superiority over that of the Germans. One of the German howitzer batteries has been completely destroyed, the official statement says.

Following reports that the French have gained Armentieres there were rumors today that the Allies have also obtained control of La Bassée. Determined fighting has been in progress along the La Bassée Canal, but construction of the gaining of the town of that name is lacking.

Verdun counter attacks are being made by the German troops. The British and French are pushing forward on the Ronsard front from Ypres. During the last 24 hours there has been furious movement in the fighting, in which some of the most famous British troops on the Continent have been engaged.

The contest for trenches east of Ypres continued in heavy fighting on both sides, and between the lines are hundreds of corpses which lie where they fell on Thursday. At various points, all along the line in the northern sector, heavy night and day bombardments are under way.

Reports from the front state that the attacks evidently were in the nature of a system to clear a relieving movement in this year's offensive operations from the War Office say that all the attacks except one were repulsed. The Germans succeeded in taking the outer trenches at one point on the Yser sector. Later in the day, however, the British regained the line ground by a brilliantly executed counter attack, recapturing the position.

around Ypres, the Allies were able to make progress in the direction of the enemy's trenches at several points. At every other point on the battle front, from the east to the Swiss border, at which the Allies attempted the offensive, they made appreciable gains. Particularly notable was the advance in the Argonne, where the French pushed forward several of their entrenched positions after repelling German attacks; in the forest of La Pretre, where progress was confined and emphatic, and south of Thunin in Alsace, where the railway station of Aspach, 10 miles west of Muehlhausen, has been captured by the French.

Artillery duels were fought in the Arras sector and about Juvincourt, north of the Aisne; in the vicinity of Varennes, along the heights of the Meuse, and in the Vosges passes. Everywhere the French guns continue to demonstrate their superiority over the Germans.

KARLSRUHE RIPPED BY BRITISH SHELLS

Continued from Page One. nor details that the cruisers Shannon, Achilles, Natal and Cochrane were engaged. Reports were circulated today that the British fleet numbered as many as twenty vessels, but it is expected that the Admiralty will observe strict silence until the work of the fleet is completed. Official word of the sinking of the cruiser Dresden has not yet been received from Vice Admiral Sturdee. His latest report gave the British losses as seven men killed and four wounded. No officers were included in the casualty list.

The fate of the Dresden, which was with both sides lying in dugouts behind their trenches while the opposing artillery struggles for mastery. Northwest of Verdun the fighting has surged backward and forward across the Aisne River under conditions which are slightly similar to those prevailing along the Yser in Belgium.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—A German semi-official statement was given out here regarding the naval battle of the Falkland Islands December 8, when the German cruiser squadron commanded by Admiral Count von Spee was defeated by a British squadron under Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Bovey Sturdee. The loss of the cruisers Dresden and Nürnberg, and Leipzig is conceded by the Germans and little hope is held out that the cruisers Dresden and Nürnberg could long evade capture. The statement reads:

"Regarding the naval battle of the Falkland Islands, transports that our cruiser squadron, soon after the battle with Sir Christopher Cradock's ships off Coronel, put into the harbor of Santiago de Chile and left there after a stay of less than 24 hours for an unknown destination. It is assumed that the squadron steamed southward to seek the British battleship Canopus and the light cruiser Glasgow. "Meanwhile, it appears from the English newspapers, a very strong British squadron was dispatched to search for and destroy our cruiser squadron. Nothing certain is yet known by us concerning the battle. It is reasonable to conclude, however, that the British ships, the Dresden and Nürnberg succeeded in escaping. "In view of the superiority of the British fleet, which consists particularly of big, fast, well-armed ships, there seems little chance that our two cruisers can long evade pursuit. We must, therefore, also reckon with the loss of both these ships. It is hardly to be expected from British sources that accurate information will be given of the course of the conflict or of the composition of the British squadron. "It should not be forgotten that our squadron was four months on the high seas, and that without being able to make use of cablegrams or other means of information it assembled and dealt a heavy blow to the enemy's fleet. No protected harbor was at the disposal of our ships for more than necessary repairs and there was no dock for the cleaning of their keels. They succeeded, nevertheless, in getting supplies of provisions and coal for four months, without falling into the enemy's hands."

The British official statement announcing that the German cruiser Nürnberg also had been sunk on December 8 apparently had not been made public in Berlin when the foregoing semi-official communication was issued.

VICTORIOUS BRITISH FLEET ASKS 300 BEDS FOR WOUNDED

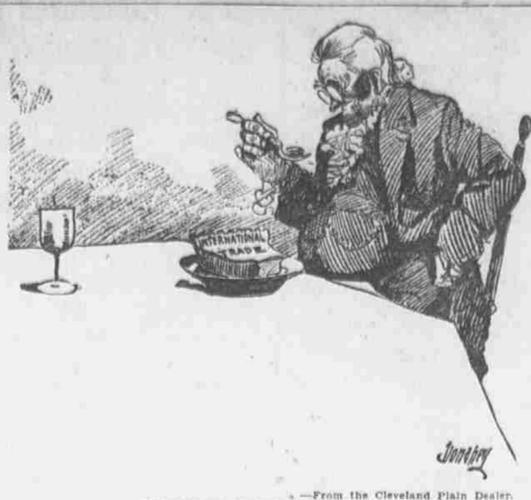
English Request Montevideo to Care for Victims of Battle. BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 12.—The Falkland naval engagement have been reported by wireless messages received today at Montevideo from the British fleet.

According to the wireless, the wounded will reach Montevideo. It is supposed that practically all of them are Germans, rescued by the British warships from the German vessels and the Letnia. Only those vessels under Sir Frederick Sturdee's command having the wounded aboard are expected at Montevideo. The rest of the vessels, according to wireless advice, will move northward several hundred miles off the South American coast. A message received at Montevideo last night stated that they would pass that point 200 miles at sea on Sunday.

The ships bearing the wounded will then detach from the squadron and put into the Uruguayan port. It is believed that the desire of the British to force German sympathizers to take care of the German wounded is responsible for the landing at Montevideo instead of at a port in the Falkland Islands, which are a British colony. It is generally accepted as a fact here that the Dresden has been sunk. All report agrees that it was well toward evening before the Nürnberg went down. At that hour, while the Dresden was still afloat and steaming, she was apparently in distress, and it is believed here that she foundered during the night. This would account for the failure of Sturdee officially to report her loss and also for her failure to interpose in some neutral port.

Dutch Plan \$100,000,000 Loan. LONDON, Dec. 12.—A news agency dispatch from The Hague says that the Dutch Government's proposal for an emergency loan of \$100,000,000 has been adopted by the second Chamber of the Dutch General.

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—From the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "GOSH, IT TASTES GOOD!"

WAR MOVES SHOW BRITISH GAIN OF RICH ORIENT PRIZE

Capture of Turkish Town of Kurna by Indian Troops Gives Coveted Control of Head of Persian Gulf, Important in Trade Expansion in East.

By J. W. T. MASON. NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The interest created by the Falkland naval battle and by the German victories in Poland distracts attention from a British success in Asia Minor which will have far-reaching consequences after the war is over. Only brief mention has been made of the capture of the Turkish town of Kurna by Indian troops operating under the command of English officers. Yet this unnoticed success gives to Great Britain control of the head of the Persian Gulf, one of the few colonial prizes not annexed by the European Powers. Germany, Russia and England have all been eager for years to obtain from Turkey this choice territory, which was the most flourishing part of the ancient Babylonian Empire, where Nebuchadnezzar reigned 2200 years ago. Antiquarian interests and military strategic reasons give to Babylon its modern value under the British flag. Primarily, the same cause that sent Columbus across the Atlantic Ocean has urged England, Germany and Russia to extend their influences about the Persian Gulf. The desire to shorten the route to India and to the East in general is the impelling motive. While trade expansion is the dominant cause, the military defense of India gives all additional impetus to British efforts.

AGED RULER LEADS, SERBS WIN AGAINST INVADERS

King Peter Heads Troops, Which Move Toward Belgrade. LONDON, Dec. 12.—King Peter of Serbia, 79 years old, led his troops against the Austrians to the overwhelming victory in northwest Serbia, which culminated on December 9, says a dispatch from Nish.

King Peter received his training at St. Cyr, the West Point of France, and he is known as one of the best strategists in Europe. Neither his age, his troubles of State, nor his family affairs have dulled his military ability. A news agency correspondent at Nish wires: "The Serbs are on the point of recapturing Belgrade. The Austrians there have been cut off by the Serbs occupying their line. The Serbs have occupied a town five miles from Belgrade."

POPE'S PEACE PLAN FAILS

Vatican Document States "Certain Power" Blocked Truce Proposal. ROME, Dec. 12.—The efforts of Pope Benedict XV to obtain a truce in the European war during the Christmas season have failed. This was announced at the Vatican today in a public document which says that "owing to the opposition" of a "certain Power," efforts to stay hostilities over Christmas have come to naught.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—The proposal of Pope Benedict for a truce among the warring nations during the Christmas holidays is said by the Official Press Bureau today to have been declined by Russia. The German Press Bureau previously announced that Germany was willing to agree to a Christmas truce, provided the other nations at war gave their assent.

GERMANS EAST OF LODZ MENACE RUSSIAN REAR

Berlin, However, Admits Stubborn Resistance to Warsaw Advance. BERLIN, Dec. 12.—The latest reports from the fighting zone around Lodz, according to information given out by the German Official Press Bureau today, show that the resistance of the Russians in that region is by no means broken. The new Russian positions on Miasko Cst are only some 12 or 13 miles to the eastward of Lodz, which demonstrates, it is said, that much yet remains to be done before the Russians can be considered definitely defeated.

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ADMIRALTY THROWS NET AROUND NAVAL SPIES OF GERMANS

Officials Believe Three Submarine Raids on British Coast Due to Surrender of Secrets to Enemy.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Three attempts by German submarines to enter British ports within less than a month have convinced the Admiralty officials that the "spy system" which had betrayed to Germany military movements supposed to be known only to high authorities has also succeeded in learning many naval secrets. The officials believe that the submarines would not have dared to attack ports guarded by mines unless their commanders knew the location of the mines.

A thorough investigation is being conducted to ascertain the manner in which the mine maps came into possession of the enemy. Deeper interest is added to this inquiry by news that on Wednesday morning German submarines made two attacks on the Firth of Forth. A dispatch from Edinburgh reports that two of the German vessels were sunk, but no official announcement to this effect has been issued by the Admiralty.

ADMIRALTY KEEPS SILENT

Naval headquarters maintained the same silence in reference to the Firth of Forth episode as that in reference to the attack on Dover earlier in the week and on Yarmouth some time ago. The submarine raid at Yarmouth was backed by a squadron of German warships, but practically nothing has been allowed to appear in the papers about it. It certainly gave the Admiralty and War Office a shock. Lord Kitchener was told of the raid—how he was rung up at his residence almost before he was out of bed—he gave orders for every official in the War Office to remain indoors until he completely understood them. No one was allowed to disturb him. Then he sent for Winston Churchill, first Lord of the Admiralty, and the two were closeted together for several hours.

ALL RIVERS MINED

Immediately the mouth of every important river was mined, but other preparations of which the public knows nothing were also made. A few nights ago the railroads of the Great Eastern system were placed at the disposal of the Government, and in one night 30,000 troops were transferred from various camps to positions which had been selected for them. Further batches are to follow. A number of the new, big guns just completed at Woolwich and in Scotland have already been placed in position at certain points and unasked so completely that the inhabitants are unaware of their existence in the neighborhood. The fact is that were a German force to land on any part of the east coast of Britain, it would have small chance of gaining more than a footing. A thoroughly comprehensive scheme of defense has been worked out by Lord Kitchener.

FIRE AT KIEL NAVAL BASE

Great Barracks Reported Destroyed. Loss Kept Secret. LONDON, Dec. 12.—The great Gottorp barracks at Kiel, the powerful German naval base, have been destroyed by fire, according to a dispatch reaching London today from Copenhagen. The cause of the fire has been kept secret, it is declared.

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RUSSIANS BATTER FORCE SENT TO RELIEVE CRACOW

Austro-German Army in Disorderly Flight After Grave Defeat. PETROGRAD, Dec. 12.—The attempt of the Austro-German forces south of Cracow to break the Russian line has resulted in their complete rout. Thousands of dead were left on the field, and the Russians remain complete masters of the situation. The Army Messengers, official organ of the War Office, today makes this assertion concerning the operations on the southern front. The Austrians were heavily reinforced by German troops. It is stated, and directed an energetic attack upon the Russian lines. They were repulsed and the check was then turned into a hasty and disordered flight. Five batteries were captured and an entire column of armored motor cars taken. The efficiency of the Russians in bringing down German aeroplanes is cited by the Army Messenger. Two reconnoitering aeroplanes were brought down by Russian guns Tuesday.

ALLIES FIVE GERMAN FROM HILLS OF LA BASSEE

Bethune Also Reported Freed From Invaders. NORTHERN FRANCE, Dec. 12.—The Allies' guns have silenced the German batteries west of Lille. Their shells no longer fall in Armentieres, and Bethune, too, is now beyond range of their heavy guns. The Germans have withdrawn from the hills southeast of La Bassée, which they held so long tenaciously. The pressure of the French offensive on the Lille and Arras line and the brilliant capture of the village of Vermelles made this withdrawal necessary.

French forces have been able to push on to within four miles of Lens. They are close to Pontavein, an industrial town north of Lens, where the railways connecting Lille, La Bassée and Arras intersect. At Arras the Germans are making a more stubborn resistance, but here, too, the French are making headway, particularly southwest of the town toward Donal and Chambray, where several German trenches have been captured and held.

BRITISH SEIZE COAL SHIP

Warship Off Gibraltar Takes Cargo. Bound for United States. COPENHAGEN, Dec. 12.—A private dispatch from Berlin says that a German steamship, bound from the United States with 5000 tons of oil consigned to the German Government, has been seized by a British warship off Gibraltar.

ITALY DEMANDS TURKEY EXPLAIN INSULT TO FLAG

Seizure of Refugee British Consul in Italian Consulate by Ottoman Officials Excites Indignation.

ROME, Dec. 12.—Italy has demanded from Turkey an explanation of steps taken by Ottoman officials at Hodeia to arrest the British consul there. The Turks entered the British consulate and the consul fled to the Italian Consulate for refuge. Despite the fact that the Italian flag was flying over the Turkish force entrance into the building and carried away the British official. This action was a violation of Italy's neutrality and the Italian Foreign Office has pointed this out in its demand for an explanation.

MOSLEMS REACH SUEZ CANAL, DECLARES REPORT

Senussi Advance Guard Crosses Egyptian Border. AMSTERDAM, Dec. 12.—The advance guard of the Senussi has advanced across the Egyptian frontier according to a dispatch from Constantinople to the Vossische Zeitung. A dispatch from Budapest quotes the correspondent of the Vestf. H. H. H. Constantinople, who obtained an interview with General van Sandere, in which the leader of the Turkish forces declares that the advanced posts of the Moslems have reached the canal, but that the situation in Egypt is not an easy one. The British are always in communication with their fleets by wireless and are always informed of every step taken by the Turks.

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